

Please amend the Abstract of the specification in the manner indicated:

A method and apparatus for identifying uncorrectable Reed-Solomon codewords in the presence of Reed-Solomon codewords which may have errors and erasures and otherwise be correctable. In a Reed-Solomon decoder handling both errors and erasures, an uncorrectable codeword is identified when any one or more of six conditions (a) to (f) is satisfied: (a) no solution to key equation $\sigma(x)T(x) \equiv (x)^{\deg x - 2T}$; (b) $\deg \sigma(x) > n_{\text{errors}}$; (c) error and erasure locations coincide; (d) $\deg w(x) \geq n_{\text{errors}} + n_{\text{erasures}}$; (e) $n_{\text{erasures}} + 2 * n_{\text{errors}} > 2T$; and (f) an error location has a zero correction magnitude; where n_{errors} and n_{erasures} represent, respectively, a number of errors with reference to an error locator polynomial $\sigma(x)$ and a number of erasures with reference to an erasure locator polynomial $A(x)$, $2T$ is the strength of a Reed-Solomon code, $w(x)$ is an errata evaluator polynomial, and $T(x)$ is a modified syndrome polynomial. A detector circuit 300 comprises a logic unit 350 which tests for the conditions (a) to (g), and an indicator unit 360 which provides a corresponding output.